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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /099 W
---------- 092830
R 140340Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2701
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESCAP:MY/ENRG
SUBJECT: ESCAP:CCOP/USGS ASSISTANCE TO PETRONAS

REF: STATE 173384 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO USGS OFFICER CHALES MASTERS, HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH US OIL FIRMS IN SINGAPORE AND WITH PETRONAS IN KL WERE EXTREMELY SATISFACTORY AND WORTHWHILE.

2. FRANK WANG. USGS MARINE GEOLOGIST IN CCOP (CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON OFFSHORE PROSPECTING IN EAST ASIA) CONFIRMS FROM RECENT TRIP TO KL THAT PETRONAS VERY PLEASED USGS WILL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SHORT PERIODS TO BRING PETRONAS UP TO SPEED IN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL AREAS. WANG BELIEVES MASTERS HAS ALSO HELPED TO START USEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN US OIL FIRMS AND PETRONAS. HE UNDERSTANDS ESSO AND CONOCO HAVE NOW APPROACHED SHELL TO CONFIRM OR DENY PETRONAS SUSPICION SHELL STILL SECRETLY OFF TAKING CRUDE FROM THREE
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OF ITS OFFSHORE SARAWAK WELLS AND ALSO LAYING UNDERSEA PIPE

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FROM THESE WELLS INTO BRUNEI OFFSHORE FIELDS WHERE SHELL CONTROL COMPLETE. COMMERCIAL RIVALRY OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN THIS EXERCISE BUT WANG UNDERSTANDS AMERICAN FIRMS BELIEVE THEY CAN COME OUT OF CLOUD OF SUSPICION IF PETRONAS CAN BE SATISFIED ABOUT RUMORS CONCERNING OIL COMPANY IT DISTRUSTS THE MOST.

3. CONCERNING PHILIPPINES, WANG NOTED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION IS STILL UNDER DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND CCOP CAN ONLY DO BUSINESS WITH LATTER. FOUR-MAN ADVISER TEAM OF GERMAN GEOLOGISTS AND STRATIGRAPHERS STILL PLANNING TO EXTEND TOUR FOR ONE MORE YEAR. CCOP STILL INTERESTED IN PROVIDING PHILIPPINES WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE USING USGS WHEN PETROLEUM CORPORATION REORGANIZED.

4. WANG UNDERSTANDS PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS HARD AT WORK CREATING ASEAN PETROLEUM RESOURCES COMMITTEE. HE HOPES REPORT FURTHER IN A MONTH.
WHITEHOUSE

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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